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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/832,952	04/12/2001	Toshiaki Ueguri	862.C2197	9892

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EXAMINER

VAUGHN, GREGORY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/832,952

Applicant(s)

UEGURI ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16, 34-42 and 52-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16, 34-42 and 52-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Application History

1. This action is responsive to the application amendment, filed on 1/6/2005.
2. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8, 17-33 and 43-51, added new claims 52-57, and amended claims 9-13, 34-37 and 39.
3. Claims 9-16, 34-42 and 52-57 are pending in the case, claims 9, 13, 34 and 39 are independent claims.
4. Applicant has amended the specification in response to the objections cited by the examiner in the *Drawings* and *Specification* sections of the previous office action (dated 10/6/2004). Applicant's amendment and remarks have addressed the objections previously made, and therefore, in view of the amendment, objections to the drawings and specification are withdrawn.
5. Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 17-33 and 43-51, made under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Levac et al. US Patent 6,034,970 as recited in the previous office action (dated 10/6/2004) are withdrawn in view of the cancelled claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

"A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language."

7. Claims 9-16 and 34-42 remain rejected and claims 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levac et al. US Patent 6,034,970, filed 7/2/1997, patented 3/7/2000 (hereinafter Levac).

8. **Regarding independent claim 9**, Levac discloses a detection unit for detecting new text inserted in a web page. Levac recites: *"The data acquisition program may include a Web scanning program, which is configured to monitor one or more Internet Web sites that are of interest to a designated message recipient. Upon detection of a modification to the information content of the Web site, the data acquisition program can update the variable value in the message template with information providing a notification of the modification"* (column 10, lines 54-61). Levac also discloses converting the text to phonetic character strings. Levac recites: *"As illustrated*

in FIG. 5, system 10 preferably includes various other types of protocol converters 24a-n that convert messages and variable data to protocols, such as are compatible with fax machines, e-mail systems, HTML files, audio devices (audio.wav)" (column 7, lines 49-53).

Levac further discloses transmitting a character string representing the text to a registered user. Levac recites: *"The data acquisition program can then convey the updated message template through automated source interface 22. The notification can simply be a communication alerting the message recipient of the modification (e.g., "www.xxx.com was updated on 1/1/97"), or can include a portion of the modified information content, such as new text" (column 10 lines 61-67).*

9. **Regarding dependent claim 10**, Levac discloses transmitted text that includes a title of the web page with the text of the web page. Levac recites: *"Preferably, the .msa file created by message file generator 23 may incorporate, and in some instances must incorporate, the following information: 1. OWNER: identifies the user who created the file; consists of the length of the user's name followed by the user's name; required stream. 2. FILENAME: identifies the name the file was saved as by the user; consists of the length of the FILENAME followed by the FILENAME; required stream. 3. FILETYPE: identifies the format (for example, .wav or .msw) of the actual message as generated embedded within the .msa file; consists of the length of the FILETYPE followed by the FILETYPE; required stream. 4. DATA: contains the message and associated components, such as text characters or*

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control codes, in the format defined by the FILETYPE stream; consists of the length of the DATA array followed by the DATA array; required stream" (column 4, lines 48-67), (compare "title" with "File Name" and "text" with "Data").

10. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, Levac discloses the transmission of a creation date with the text. Levac recites: *"Message file generator 23 embeds the actual message in the .msa file together with primary data streams specifying essential message parameters, such as date, time"* (column 4, lines 39-42).
11. **Regarding dependent claim 12**, Levac discloses deleting text. Levac recites: *"In addition to routing messages to protocol converters 24a-n, message server 14 also transmits server commands, such as the activate message command discussed previously. Other server commands can include a "delete message" command and a "delete all messages" command"* (column 9, lines 25-29).
12. **Regarding claims 13-16**, the claims are directed toward a method for the apparatus of claims 9-12, respectively, and are rejected using the same rationale.
13. **Regarding independent claim 34**, Levac discloses a reception unit for receiving new text inserted in a web page. Levac recites: *"The data acquisition program can then convey the updated message template through*

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automated source interface 22. The notification can simply be a communication alerting the message recipient of the modification (e.g., "www.xxx.com was updated on 1/1/97"), or can include a portion of the modified information content, such as new text" (column 10 lines 61-67).

Levac also discloses converting the text to synthetic speech. Levac recites: *"As illustrated in FIG. 5, system 10 preferably includes various other types of protocol converters 24a-n that convert messages and variable data to protocols, such as are compatible with fax machines, e-mail systems, HTML files, audio devices (audio.wav)" (column 7, lines 49-53).*

Levac further discloses a speech output means in Figure 5 at reference sign 18h (shown as *"Speakers"*).

14. **Regarding dependent claim 35**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 10, and is rejected using the same rationale.
15. **Regarding dependent claim 36**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 11, and is rejected using the same rationale.
16. **Regarding dependent claims 37**, Levac discloses outputting a predetermined sound prior to outputting the synthetic speech. Levac recites: *"The mailbox notifies the user that a new message has been received"* (column 1, lines 34-35).
17. **Regarding dependent claims 38**, Levac discloses a computer and a telephone system. Levac recites: *"Accordingly, a message generated by a*

source (e.g., an individual or user, a real-time data source, a sensor or other software applications or hardware devices) can be automatically conveyed to diverse communication devices, such as networked personal computers, message marquees (e.g., large character displays), telephone systems" (column 3, lines 49-55).

18. **Regarding claims 39-42**, the claims are directed toward a method for the apparatus of claims 34-37, respectively, and are rejected using the same rationale.
19. **Regarding claim 52**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 9, and is rejected using the same rationale.
20. **Regarding claim 53**, the claim contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 34, and is rejected using the same rationale.
21. **Regarding claims 54-57**, the claims are directed toward defining the invention's phonetic character string as characters for representing pronunciation of words. Levac discloses phonetic character strings used for pronunciation of words. Levac recites: "*Types of messages include text, voice, or text-to-speech messages*" (column 3, lines 62-63).

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed 1/6/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

23. **Regarding independent claims 9 and 13**, the applicant states: "Levac et al. in any manner teaches or suggests the features of claims 9 and 13 of converting a character string representing new text inserted in a web page into a phonetic character string and transmitting the phonetic character string" (page 10, first paragraph of the amendment filed 1/6/2005). Applicant is directed to the rejection of claims 9 and 13 as restated above.

24. **Regarding claims 9, 13, 34 and 39**, the applicant recites: "*Levac et al. ... is devoid of any teaching with regard to phonetic character strings or any suggestion of converting strings into synthetic speech for outputting as in claims 34 and 39*" (page 11, second paragraph of the amendment filed 1/6/2005). Applicant is directed to the rejection of claims 9, 13, 34 and 39 as restated above.

Conclusion

25. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn
May 2, 2005



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER